

315. *URIA TROILE*.

Of rare occurrence in the Mediterranean in winter. I have only seen three specimens obtained there. Near Gibraltar it is probably more numerous.

316. *ALCA TORDA*.

Even rarer than the preceding species, and I can only remember having seen one specimen.

317. *FRATERCULA ARCTICA*. Majorca "Cagafet."

Though never very numerous to the east of the Straits, it is far more abundant than either of the preceding, and is well known to the fishermen of the Dragonera, where, however, it does not breed. A friend has informed me that he once saw many hundreds off the coast of Morocco, near Mogador; but the most southern breeding-place with which I am acquainted is at the Berlingas, or Farallones, a group of rocks in the Atlantic, a trifle to the north of the latitude of Lisbon.

318. *COLYMBUS SEPTENTRIONALIS*.

A regular autumn and winter visitor. I saw many between Gibraltar and Cadiz.

319. *PODICEPS CRISTATUS*.

Undoubtedly breeds in the marshes of Andalucia, but, from its retiring habits, is rarely obtained. Its principal haunt is the Albufera of Valencia.

320. *PODICEPS NIGRICOLLIS*, } Val. "Cabusot;" And.
321. *PODICEPS MINOR*. } "Zambullidor."

Abundant in suitable localities throughout the country; and any reedy pond is tolerably certain to contain a nest or two in the season.

XXXII.—*Description of a new Genus and Species of Bird belonging to the Family Fringillidæ.* By D. G. ELLIOT, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

(Plate XI.)

DOLOSPINGUS NUCHALIS, gen. et sp. nov.

Dolospingus, genus novum Fringillinarum; rostrum compressum,



M. G. Keulemans del.

DOLOSPINGUS NUCHALIS.

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magnum, subdescendens, gonyx ascendens : remiges tertius et quartus fere æquales et longissimi.

- D. nuchalis ♂. *Capite, gula, dorso et alis nigris : primariis brunneo-nigris : macula magna nuchali, fascia alari et uropygio albis ; cauda nigro-brunnea : subtus albus ; rostro corneo, mandibula ad basin nigricante ; pedibus nigris.*

Head, throat, and entire upper parts black, with slight bluish reflections upon the back ; a conspicuous white spot in the centre of the neck behind ; primaries brownish black, smaller coverts tipped with white forming an alar bar ; rump white ; upper tail-coverts black ; tail blackish brown, the feathers rather pointed ; entire underparts and flanks white ; bill very thick at the base, converging to a sharp point, horn-colour ; the base of mandible and sides of maxilla blackish ; feet and tarsi black.

Total length 5 inches ; wing $2\frac{5}{8}$ in. ; tail $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. ; tarsus $\frac{5}{8}$ in.

Hab. Orinoco, on the borders of British Guiana.

The singular Finch here described was received by Madame Verdey, of Paris, in a small collection obtained on the Orinoco river, on the borders of British Guiana. In its general coloration and in the markings of its plumage it is not unlike the members of the genus *Spermophila*, and, were it not for its extraordinary bill, would seem to find its place most naturally in that genus. But the bill precludes such a disposition of this species ; and indeed there is no genus known to me under which it may be classified ; I have therefore proposed the term *Dolospingus* for this curious form. The type specimen was the only one sent, and now belongs to the Museum of Natural History of New York, for whose fine collection I have secured it.

XXXIII.—*Stray Notes on Ornithology in India.*

By ALLAN HUME, C. B. No. VII.*

I MENTIONED in one of my former letters that *Otis tetrax* and *Pterocles alchata* (neither of which, so far as I know, occurs in India east of the Indus) are during the cold season by no means uncommon west of the Indus, at Murdan. By the kindness of

Johnson, of the Guides, a taxidermist of mine has been

* No. VI. *antèa*, p. 23.